hotels and restaurants have recently been increased by Government;

(b) if so, whether this decision for differential pricing of cylinders is likely to lead to black marketing and shortage of cylinders meant for domestic consumption; and

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider the above decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Prices of IPCL Products

*7. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of different products of the Indian Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited and those of the three pharmaceutical companies viz. Smith Stanistreet, Bengal Chemicals and Bengal Immunity are higher than those of the other private pharmaceutical companies;

(b) what are the considerations which weigh with the Indian Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited in fixing prices of its products; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to fall in line with private companies in fixing prices of the products by these three companies?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The prices of drugs and formulations under Categories I, II and III of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 are fixed by the Government of India. M/s. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceutical Ltd., M/s. Smith Stanistreet, M/s. Bengal Chemicals and M/s. Bengal Immunity are not selling these drugs at prices higher than the Government fixed prices.

(b) and (c) Price fixation of products of other Category depend upon the market conditions, products strengths, competitive ability and costs of production.

Bottling capacity of Cooking Gas in West Bengal

*8. SHRI NARAYAN KAR:
SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the bottling capacity of cooking gas cylinder plants per day in West Bengal;

(b) what is the per day distribution of cooking gas cylinders in the State; and

(c) how the surplus cylinders, if any, are being utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FNANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The capacity of LPG Bottling Plants in West Bengal is presently around 20,000 cylinders per day.

(b) The average demand in West Bengal is around 15,000 cylinders per day.

(c) The surplus cylinders are supplied to neighbouring States like Orissa and Bihar.

Uniform Civil Code

*9. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 162 given